

APPLICANT(S): TAY, Cheng Siew et al.
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REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the above-identified application in view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks.

Remarks to the Drawings

FIG. 6 and FIG. 7 have been amended to match the specification and to correct a typographical error. In FIG. 6, the lead line of element 53 has been corrected to point at the inner circle and the vector previously labeled as 53 is now labeled 58. In FIG. 7, the lead line of element 63 has been corrected to point at the inner circle and the vector previously labeled as 63 is now labeled 60.

The replacement drawing sheets containing each corrected drawing are enclosed for review by the Examiner in the Appendix. Applicants respectfully submit that the changes in FIGs. 6 and 7 are made to correct inadvertent errors in the original drawings and more accurately reflect the subject matter of the Application as originally filed. No new matter has been added.

Remarks to the Specification

Paragraphs [0040], [0042], [0043], and [0045] of the specification have been amended to correct minor typographical errors regarding the numbering of elements in FIGs. 6 and 7, as noted above. In addition, paragraphs [0027] and [0029] have amended to refer to line 18 as a "tangent" instead of the erroneous term "normal". These changes correctly reflect the subject matter of the application as originally filed and are consistent with FIG. 2, which depicts a tangent line 18.

It is respectfully submitted that the amendments to the specification are editorial in nature and do not introduce new matter.

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Status of Claims

Claims 1-38 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 6, and 18 have been amended. Claim 5 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Claims 21-38 were withdrawn from consideration by the Examiner as being drawn to a non-elected invention. Applicants affirm the provisional election to prosecute claims 1-20, and reserve all rights in the non-elected claims 21-38 to file divisional and/or continuation patent applications.

No new matter has been added by the amendments to the claims.

Allowable Subject Matter

In the Office Action, the Examiner indicated that claim 5 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all features of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 1 has been amended to include the allowable subject matter of claim 5, which is now cancelled without prejudice. Claim 18 has been likewise amended to include the allowable subject matter of claim 5. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that amended independent claims 1 and 18, as well as claims 2-4, 6-7, and 19-20 dependent thereon, are in condition for allowance.

CLAIM REJECTIONS

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-3, 9-10, 16, and 19 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e), as being anticipated by Asai et al., US Pat. No. 6,831,234 ("Asai '234").

In addition, the Examiner rejected claims 4, 6-8, 11-15, 17-18, and 20 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), as being unpatentable over Asai '234 in view of Asai et al., US Pat. No. 6,487,088 ("Asai '088").

Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections in view of the following remarks.

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As discussed above, amended independent claims 1 and 18 include subject matter indicated as allowable. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections of these claims and reconsideration and allowance of amended claims 1 and 18, and of claims 2-4, 6-7, and 19-20 dependent thereon.

Regarding independent claims 8 and 15, Applicants respectfully assert that Asai '234 and Asai '088, individually or in combination with any other reference of record, do not teach or suggest at least some of the features of these claims. For example, Asai '234 and Asai '088 fail to teach or suggest the claimed feature "where a center of a microvia of a pad is farther than a center of said pad from a crack initiation point located on a perimeter of said pad", as recited by claims 8 and 15.

Applicants have carefully reviewed Asai '234 and Asai '088, including the portions cited by the Examiner, and respectfully disagree with the Examiner's contention that these references describe a center of a microvia of a pad that is farther than a center of said pad from a crack initiation point located on a perimeter of said pad. To the contrary, FIG. 5A of Asai '234 shows viahole 8 centered on pad 9, and FIG. 1 of Asai '088 likewise shows viahole 160U centered on pad 75U. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that a *prima facie* showing of anticipation and/or obviousness has not been established with regards to independent claims 8 and 15, or claims 9-14 and 16-17 dependent thereon, and that the rejections of these claims should be withdrawn.

In view of the above, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of claims 8 and 15, and of claims 9-14 and 16-17 dependent thereon.

Finally, Applicants acknowledge the Examiner's citation of non-applied references on page 7 of the Office Action. It is submitted that the claims of the present invention are patentable over this art.

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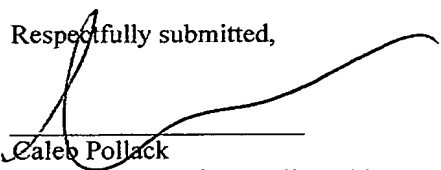
Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that the pending claims distinguish over the prior art of record and are in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and passage to issue are therefore respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned counsel to discuss any further issues yet to be resolved in connection with this application.

Please charge any fees associated with this paper to deposit account No. 50-3355.

Respectfully submitted,



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Appendix:

Replacement Drawing Sheets